

THE GUILD OF ST. BARNABAS

IN CHARGE OF

S. M. DURAND

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A PLEA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL FUND, AS A MEANS OF HELPING THE ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE GUILD OF ST. BARNABAS WHO HAVE LOST THE POWER OF SUPPORTING THEMSELVES

EVERY branch of the Guild of St. Barnabas has been asked to offer suggestions for this object, which, it is very rightly judged, may be the means of bringing us more closely in touch with one another, and make us, as a whole, more firmly bonded together. We are so widely scattered that it is not easy for any one branch to know what is in the mind of another until we meet, and then only as a selected few at the Annual Councils. I therefore venture to advocate one plan, and will urge my point as strongly as I am able. Why should we be asked to concentrate our efforts and bend all our energies to maintain any scheme in which we have no personal interest? Why may we not, in helping others, likewise help ourselves? Is not our life one constant giving out to others? We give our time and skill to those who recompense us: with those same earnings are we not daily helping those who are near and dear to us, making life a little easier for parents, helping to educate some younger brother or sister, caring for one who has already spent her strength in struggling as we are now doing, leaving our savings small, or perhaps already swallowed up by some unforeseen breakdown in our own life? Thus the time passes, and the allotted span of the nurse's life finds us surely and certainly approaching that limit of useful strength which seemed so limitless at the outset. We seek for other fields of less arduous labor, and in spite of the ever-increasing scope for educated service, we find ourselves passed by in the race of competition, with our strength sapped, our vitality lessened. Our nerves no longer answer to our self-control, and what remains for those absolutely stricken down and incapacitated but to be helpless burdens on those who have long been dependent on our exertion, or for the homeless one a still sadder outlook? Can you honestly call it selfishness—self-centredness—to combine in raising a fund that will provide some slight aid for your sister nurse who has fallen on evil days? Let me cite the Freemasons. Are they considered a selfish body because they provide for their own adherents? Is it too much to ask this of the Guild of St. Barnabas, to devote themselves with strenuous efforts while we are yet well and strong to take some thought for the future of those who form the active membership? There are funds in all denominations for aged, sick, and infirm clergy, both local and general, actors' fund, newspaper fund, teachers' fund, but no fund for the nurses. The local Sick-Relief Associations do much to tide over the nurse while she is in active and good standing, but the aid is comparatively small and temporary and does not pretend to go beyond helping her over an acute stage, but it is the long, weary convalescence of prostration, or such sad affliction as paralysis, phthisis,

and the like, stretching into weeks and months, in which even a small sum may make all the difference between a maintenance and actual destitution. And, believe me, a nurse does not readily call for help. If ever proper pride ruled a class, it reigns supreme among nurses. If in our days of prosperity we all work in harmony and sympathy, helping to care for those in need of aid, when our own time comes, if we should be so unfortunate, we need not feel humiliated to accept from others what we have freely given in our turn.

I am reminded that there is no doctors' fund. No, dear critic, but recollect that in fifteen minutes of any day the doctor makes the fee for which the nurse works all the twenty-four hours. Her wages are but those of the ordinary mason, but what are his responsibilities compared to hers? It is perhaps too wide a gap to name the two callings, and yet they build up the house, stone by stone, which must be set most accurately. Does not the nurse build up each of her cases step by step, with all the energy of her mind and body until it is once more a whole, sound structure unless the great Master Builder orders otherwise? There will be many and great difficulties in realizing and regulating this scheme, which I propose to entitle "A Central Fund for aiding the Necessitous Active Members of the Guild of St. Barnabas," but I know there are to be found wise hands into which the framing of its working parts and the administration of its affairs can be placed, others who will give financial aid in grateful memory of service where money, at the time, could not repay the self-abnegation which all unwittingly may have laid the seed of which the breakdown was the fruit. Other funds succeed, why not ours? We all contribute in our different churches towards mission work, and at no time before has it been so munificently supported; and if our mites may seem inconsequent to the great whole, still we have all done our part in that important work. Let us, then, look upon this as a special effort on behalf of home mission work, and let us do it with that charity which is beyond all price, and that will make it seem not a selfish endeavor, looking only for our own supreme need, but a labor of love that shall weld us into a mighty whole, giving us that "sympathy for one another" for which we shall ever be the richer until we find at last that "rest and peace" that ends our daily prayer.

I may not hope to influence the whole guild, but I trust most earnestly that my plea may receive its kindly consideration. There is nothing to prevent such a scheme as this from reaching to untold dimensions and no limit to the good it may accomplish. We have our men of millions among us, to whom nothing will appeal so strongly as our concerted efforts, in the first place to help ourselves, and though we may lack the motive power of Royalty, as in England, to give their *cachet* to our project, we are not likely on that score to be left behind, and occasions will not be lacking, such as anniversaries and special times of thanksgiving, that will give an added zeal and impetus to our exertions, if, indeed, any spur will be needed to induce us to work as we have never worked before.

"ORANGE."

HARTFORD.—The twelfth annual meeting of the Hartford Branch of the Guild of St. Barnabas was held at the Church of the Good Shepherd on the afternoon of Wednesday, May 20. The extreme heat and an approaching thunder-shower somewhat affected the attendance and shortened the religious service, which was conducted by the chaplain, Dr. Hart, assisted by the Rev. George T. Linsley, rector of the parish of the Good Shepherd, who was at this time

admitted a priest-associate. Priests, associates, and nurses were blown in a very informal manner from the church to the Parish-House by the beginning of the storm, but once under shelter sharp lightning and heavy thunder did not disturb a very enjoyable business meeting and social gathering. The annual report, read by the secretary, showed a smaller attendance during the past year than usual, owing, in a measure, to the past severe and very busy season. We hope for kinder conditions in the future and a better record twelve months from now. Our devoted secretary has been obliged to miss three out of the nine meetings held since last May through severe illness and sorrow. She may feel assured that the sympathy she has always been so ready to feel and express towards the members of the guild has been most heartily extended to her during her trials and afflictions. Our membership remains the same as last year. Ninety-one nurses and nineteen associates are entered on the rolls. The same number have been received into the guild as have resigned. Four nurses have been married, but they desire to continue their connections with the guild. The last one of the four, Mrs. Robert Skenandore, formerly Miss Nancy Ruth Cornelius, is a graduate of Carlisle Indian School and the Hartford Hospital Training-School. After doing general nursing in Hartford and vicinity for several years, she went West to work among her own people, the Oneida Indians, taking charge of the hospital at Oneida, Wis. She was married at Hobart Church, Oneida, on the afternoon of Easter Sunday, April 12. Miss Beach and Mrs. Washburn were again elected secretary and treasurer of the Hartford Branch of the guild. A brief social hour followed the transacting of business, when refreshments were served of ice-cream, cake, and lemonade. We were very glad to have Miss Evelyn Lingwood with us again. She has recently returned to Hartford after completing a post-graduate course in a Boston hospital.

PHILADELPHIA BRANCH of the Guild of St. Barnabas met at the Philadelphia Hospital the third Thursday in April. The chaplain, Rev. G. Woolsey Hodge, being absent, two of the priests-associate, Rev. Mr. Lobdell and Rev. Mr. Knowles, conducted the services. The service was said in the little chapel connected with the hospital and was very helpful to all present. Three new members were admitted at the service. The business meeting was held in the Nurses' Home and was conducted by our secretary, Miss M. W. Brinkerhoff, and Rev. Mr. Lobdell. An account was given of a lecture given under the auspices of the guild on March 28 by Mr. Bryant, of the Geographical Society, on "Southern Russia and the Black Sea." It was very interesting and added a nice sum to the treasury. After the lecture a number of the members attended a reception given in honor of Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee, of Washington, D. C., who is a medical associate of the guild. After the business meeting was over all present spent a half hour very pleasantly partaking of dainty refreshments which had been provided by Miss Smith, the chief nurse and hostess of the evening.

BOSTON.—The April meeting of the Guild of St. Barnabas was unusually important and interesting. The meeting was held on the 22d day of the month at the Church of the Advent. Father Van Allen presided over the office in the beautiful Lady Chapel of this church. His address was eloquent and most interesting, the text being "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." This motto, out of the Sermon on the Mount, Father Van Allen said was especially appropriate for nurses, as caring for the sick is peculiarly a work of

mercy. One rarely finds this attitude of compassion towards the sick amongst any but Christian nations. Savages see in illness only impaired usefulness to the tribe. Even a civilized nation like the Greek felt the unloveliness of sickness and nothing more, but Christians heal the sick, "having compassion on them." One of three motives usually induce a woman to become a nurse, the first mercenary reward, the second human pity, and the third Christian charity. Stated in broader terms, these three motives evolve into the following: the care of the sick for one's own sake, for the sake of the patient, or for the sake of God. This last is the only one which will not at some time fail, for if a nurse cares for the sick for her own sake, and the nurse's and patient's interests cease to be identical, the selfishness of the motive immediately becomes apparent, or, if the motive be the second one—that is, the care of the sick for the patient's sake—it is easy to see that this would fail should the sick one become unlovely. There are three great needs for a nurse who is nursing for Christian charity's sake—fidelity, patience, and love. She must minister not only to the body, but to the soul and mind. Mr. Van Allen brought his little sermon to an end by telling an exquisite story of some monks who were discoursing one day on their different ideas of what would be the crowning joy of Heaven. One spoke of the promise of beautiful music, another of the peace and rest, a third of the visions of angels. But a young monk, who was afterwards known to us as Thomas à Kempis, said that the promise which he held most dear was, "His servants shall serve Him." Three new members were admitted to the guild, Miss Mabel Chase, Miss Boyldon, and Miss Christine McLean, for the Boston Branch, and Miss A. C. T. Eady and Miss A. L. Elliot, of Fitchburg, who are members of the branch of the guild about to be started there. After the religious service coffee and cake were served in the Parish-House. Mrs. Kenneth Harton sang some charming Italian songs, and when encored played some Italian dances. There was an unusually large attendance.

